



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

course it may be impossible to demonstrate this, in which case the present classification may very well be allowed to remain. The genus *Heterognathus*, Schmarda, is applicable to the species having the toes equal—part of the present *Diurella*. The author admits that this group may be thought worthy of separation, but he does not notice that the name belongs properly to a genus of fishes, the latter having five years' priority. If the equal-toed species deserve a generic name, a new one will have to be proposed.

Looking over the paper, one notices the absence of any records from the region west of the great plains, as well as from other great regions. It is to be hoped that students will arise in some of the neglected parts of the country, now that the study is made comparatively easy.

T. D. A. C.

Gardiner's Reports on the Fauna and Geography of the Maldive and Laccadive Archipelagoes have now begun a second volume. The First Part contains an account of the Alcyonaria, by Hickson and E. M. Pratt, of the nudibranchs by Sir Charles Eliot, of Sponge crabs by Borradaile, of Lagoon Deposits by Gardiner and on a Land Planarian by Laidlaw. The Part contains nine lithographed plates.

Hickson discusses the remarkable variability of the Alcyonaria and concludes that either they constitute a large number of closely similar species or else one species capable of extraordinary variation in circumstances that are approximately identical. For practical purposes the author regards those variations as species which are discontinuous. Hickson finds that the form and mode of branching are unreliable criteria of any species because they vary with accidental variations in environment and the presence of gall producing Crustacea that reside in the branches.

Eliot's Report contains many interesting general data, concerning swimming Hexabranchidæ, hidden but highly colored Dorididæ, self-mutilating Dicodoris, a Phyllid that secretes a liquid with disagreeable smell and others.

C. B. D.

Position of the Gordiacea.—Montgomery concludes¹ from a study of the adults that the Gordiacea agree with the Nematoda in only the tubular gmitalia and their opening into the cloaca. They

¹ *Zoolog. Jahrbücher* Abth. f. anat. xviii 1903.

agree with the Annelids in structure and innervation of the muscles and in dorso-ventral mesenteries bounded by epithelia. They differ from Annelids in entire absence of true metamerism, in the absence of a prestomial ganglion, in absence of seton and appendages and in structure of genitalia. The group cannot be regarded as degenerate Annelids (Vejdovsky) or as modified Nematods, but must be considered as an isolated group (Funacher, von Siebold, Villot) until more details concerning the development are known. The pertinence of the peculiar genus *Nectoruma* to the group is at least questionable.

North Atlantic Invertebrata.—Several papers in the 1st Hefts of the *Bergens Museums Aarbog* for 1903 have an interest to students of the Invertebrata of our northeastern coast. Emily Amesen catalogues the Sponges of the Norwegian coast, the present paper containing the Halichondrina. R. C. Punnett enumerates the Nemertini of Norway in which thirty-four species are recognized, of which twelve are supposed to be new. Edward T. Browne reports upon a collection of nineteen species of Medusæ, mostly from the fiords around Bergen, four of them being new and eleven others not previously catalogued from Norway. Among the interesting points brought out is the fact that the peculiar sucking cups described by Hæckel in *Ptychogastria polaris* (*Pectyllis arctica* Hæckel) are only the stumps of broken off tentacles. Only four species of Leptomedusæ are enumerated in the collection. All three papers are well illustrated.

BOTANY.

The Desert Botanical Laboratory.¹—Of the occurrences of recent date interesting to the botanists of this and other countries, one of great importance is the establishment, by the Carnegie Institution, of a laboratory at which desert plants can be studied in their native habitat. Messrs. Coville and MacDougal were asked to constitute themselves a committee of inquiry, to determine the most suitable place where such a laboratory might be located. We have before us

¹ Coville, F. V. and MacDougal, D. T. Desert Botanical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution. pp. 1-58, Pl. I-XXIX, fig. in text 1-4. Publication No. 6, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Nov. 1903.